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Some Animal Products Exempted from Import Fees

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

TH0027. On January 12, 2010 the Cabinet approved to exempt imports of pork-back fat, pork casing and sheep casing used for re-export from the import permit fee of 5 baht/kilogram (approx. US\$ 150/ton). Of these, only pork back-fat is permitted into Thailand from the US.

On January 12, 2010, the Cabinet approved to exempt the import permit fee of 5 baht/kilogram (US\$150/ton) on pork back-fat, pork casing, and sheep casing. This exemption only covers imports used for processing foods for export. The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) collects the import fee at the time an import permit is issued. DLD has stated that the implementation of the exemption will take place once the notification has been published in the Royal Gazette, and importers seeking import permits for these products should have no problem obtaining them.

Sheep casings have been prohibited from entering Thailand since December 24, 2003 when Thailand banned imports of all U.S. ruminant animals and products. Access for U.S. beef was reestablished on February 15, 2006.

DLD has prohibited a wide range of U.S. pork products including swine genetics, uncooked pork meat, meat, and uncooked pork offals (including pork casings) on the basis that the US has not met DLD requirement of submitting a questionnaire and an on-site inspection which are the preliminary steps for drafting an import protocol. See FAS/Bangkok GAIN [Thailand Bans Pork Products](#) and [H1N1 Free Pork Certification](#). Currently, according to DLD, pig skin and pork back-fat are the only products not subject to the aforementioned requirements. As a result, U.S. pork back-fat is the only product that will benefit from this import fee exemption.

The import permit fee is imposed in addition to the 40 percent import tariff and is a significant entry burden for these products. The exemption is intended to support the competition of Thai exporters who use imported inputs.